

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DATE DISTR. / Jul 49

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1A
PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1C
DATE
ACQUIRED BY SOURCE

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

DATE OF INFORMATION

1. The Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs was, until February 1949, divided into six sections, two independent divisions, and offices such as the Cabinet of the Minister, Secretariat General, Protocol division, Code division.

The six sections were: I. Foreign service administration and personnel
II. Political affairs
III. Press and information
IV. Economic affairs
V. Consular affairs
VI. Legal affairs

Independent divisions: M. Peace treaties and German affairs
S. Reparations and restitutions

2. In the middle of February 1949, the Ministry was reorganized along new lines and divided into four general sectors:

Sector A - So-called "territorial" into which was concentrated the agenda of the previous sections II, III, IV, and V (see above). The sector is divided into several sections according to countries or groups of countries. At the head of this sector was placed Mr. Jiri Taufer, former editor in the publishing firm "Svoboda" and since May 1948, ambassador in Belgrade.

Sector B - Comprises the agenda of general nature (political, economic, administrative and legal) which concerns policy planning. The head of this sector is Gertruda Sekaninová, widow of a Prague attorney who died in the German concentration camp during World War II.

Sector C - Comprises the administration of the Foreign Service, except the affairs of personnel (agenda of the former section I.). Chief - Ing. Vlastimil Borek, former chief of the political section.

Sector D - Affairs of personnel, codes, pouch services, etc. In this sector is apparently concentrated the intelligence service concerning Czechoslovak citizens abroad, and also liaison between the Ministry of Interior and its agents abroad.
Chief - Arthur London.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

3. The reorganization of the Ministry has been planned for a long time by the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, Clementis. Because Jan Masaryk and some leading officials of the Ministry opposed the reorganization along territorial lines, it had not been carried through. After the Communist coup d'état in February 1948 and after Masaryk's death, Clementis had his way, and plans have been worked out. The basic plan was probably outlined by Clementis himself. The details of the new organization were the object of long studies by a few close collaborators of Clementis in the fall of 1948. Published material was gathered on foreign ministries of other countries, including the US Department of State and the Soviet Foreign Ministry. A great effort was made to learn about the organization of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, because the Communists intended to make the new reorganization on the Soviet model, but much difficulty was encountered by the Czechoslovak Embassy in Moscow in obtaining material from the Soviets. The main purpose of the reorganization was to secure a firm Communist grip on every phase of the agenda and to place absolutely reliable Communists in all key positions in the Ministry.
4. Clementis is still considered an outstanding member of the Czechoslovak Communist party. His position, however, has been weakened during 1948 by wholesale resignations in the Czechoslovak Foreign Service. As an old friend of President Gottwald, he is not likely to be ousted in the near future. If it happens, it will mean that Gottwald's position itself is in danger. Clementis belongs to the moderate wing of the Communist party. He has not the Moscow background, i.e. has not been in Moscow for any length of time to receive the strict Communist training. For this reason, he cannot be entirely trusted by the Soviets. If he is forced out of his present post, the most likely successor would be one of his vice-ministers. Fierlinger, who tried desperately several times to capture the post, is not likely to succeed him.
5. Before February 1948, no general Soviet control was exercised over the Czechoslovak diplomatic appointments. After the Communist coup d'état, the checking of all personnel was entrusted to a commission composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Central Committee of the Communist party. The representative of the Communist party was, until February 1949, Mr. Geminder, who was known to be one of the most active members of the Central Committee, and who also attended the meetings of the Cominform. He was probably the Soviet liaison in the Commission. Since the reorganization of the Ministry, the affairs of personnel were entrusted to Mr. Arthur London, one of the vice-ministers, who is said to have close ties with Soviets, and who has complete control now over the appointments.
6. As far as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is concerned, the liaison with the Soviets is maintained mainly through the Soviet Embassy in Prague, although in some instances this is done through the Czechoslovak Embassy in Moscow. In cases of basic policy, the Central Committee of the Communist party would probably be the proper channel.
7. The cable traffic, both plain and codes, is concentrated in the former division "B", now under Sector D. The head of this division was until February 1948, Colonel Milan Fryc, a member of the Czechoslovak Army in England during the war. In February 1948, he was arrested, but later released. After that Mr. Klubičko, his assistant, was appointed in his place. Mr. Klubičko is a new member of the Communist party. Several agents of the Ministry of Interior were put in this division after February 1948.
8. The Ministry has direct wireless service with most of the Czechoslovak embassies and legations abroad. The transmitters used are directly in the buildings of the Ministry. A teletype service is maintained with the legation in Vienna. Most of the radio connections are two-way and there are three to four daily services with each diplomatic post. The service between Prague and the embassy in Washington is one-way, since the embassy does not possess a transmitter. The code system used until recently was the same as used by the Czechoslovak Government in exile in London during World War II.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ OFFICIALS ONLY

9. As mentioned before, the intelligence service is apparently concentrated in the hands of Mr. London, the Vice-Minister. His office is probably the liaison between the agents employed in the Czechoslovak diplomatic service and the Ministry of Interior.
10. The new head of the passport division was to be appointed in early 1949, and was supposed to be a former police official in Liberec (Sudetenland). The former head of this division, Mr. Kozisek, was not a Communist. No passport could be issued to officials going abroad without previous investigation of the Ministry of Interior and without its approval.
11. The officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who were dismissed from the office between February and May 1948 were unable, as a rule, to obtain employment in the other branches of the Administration. Their dismissal was labeled as of political nature and they were branded as unreliable from the Communist standpoint. Those purged after May 1948 could, theoretically, be employed by other Government services, but since the Administration was ordered to reduce the number of its employees in general, there was little possibility for them to be accepted elsewhere. They should, for a few years, receive one half of their last salaries. Eventually they will be assigned to work wherever they will be needed. Among those who served in the US during the last war, Ambassador Hurban is on a sick leave (since 1946), Dr. Cerverka was retired and is receiving a pension of about 5000 crowns monthly, Dr. Gardavsky, who was dismissed in February 1948 (at the same time as Dr. Cerverka) is employed by a private firm and is said to have applied for an emigration passport to Canada, where his son lives. Mr. Hudec, former Czechoslovak Consul General in New York, who joined the Communist party after February 1948, and who had a high position in the Ministry of Foreign Trade, was recently demoted, but is still in the services of that ministry. Mr. Haushofer, who was attached to the embassy in the US from 1943 to 1946, was dismissed in February 1948 and could not gain a new employment. His wife is working in the Protocol division of the Ministry. Mr. Haushofer was dismissed in February 1948 without salary. (About five were dismissed without any salary in February 1948 from the Foreign Ministry.)

-end-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ OFFICIALS ONLY